

The Director

22 February 1949

Assistant General Counsel

Hoover Commission Report on the  
National Security Organization.

1. Reference is made to the attached letter to you, dated 18 February 1949, from Sidney A. Mitchell, Executive Director of the Hoover Commission. This letter points out that the Commission will release its report on the National Security Organization on 24 February, but that Volumes II and III of the task force report will only be mimeographed.

2. I have spoken both to Senator McClellan, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, and Congressman Dawson, Chairman of the Expenditures Committee in the House. The report will be transmitted to their Committees.

3. Both Chairmen pledged themselves to take every possible step to keep secure the volumes of the task force report which deal with CIA. They are both aware of the problems involved to the fullest extent. If for any reason they wish to discuss portions of the report with you, it will be done only in executive session.

4. Mr. Dawson in particular realizes that if multiple copies of Volumes II and III of the task force report are made available, there is little possibility of maintaining security in the House.

5. It is noted in Mr. Mitchell's letter to you that only one mimeographed copy of Volumes II and III of the Eberstadt report will be delivered to each branch of the Congress. This will permit the Chairman in each case to lock it up, and they will do so. However, it is suggested that you talk with Mr. Mitchell again as both the Senator and the Congressman tend to place the burden for security on the Commission, and that you urge Mr. Mitchell to take specific steps again with both Chairmen to impress on them the security implications involved in the Eberstadt report. In fact, I do not think either Chairman would be adverse to the Commission's deleting the CIA section from the task force report, setting it up separately for them to read and then recalling it.

Walter L. Pforzheimer

Attachment